

ANALYST STUDIES OSWALD AND RUBY

Sees Vengefulness Pattern
Linked to Childhood

By ENIMA HARRISON

The cases of Lee H. Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, and Jack Ruby, Oswald's self-appointed executioner, were examined here this weekend at a psychoanalytic meeting as classic examples of the vengeful person.

The vengeful person, who eventually commits murder is really trying to hide his own disastrous emotions, said Dr. Charles W. Socarides, a New York psychoanalyst. Just as Oswald was accused of doing, the vengeful person acts out of his own serious childhood emotional impairment, Dr. Socarides said.

And even though he may accomplish his end—that is, the murder of the person who has supposedly wronged him—he is doomed to disappointment, for his feelings of worthlessness and inadequacy remain, the psychoanalyst said.

He gave the following explanation:

The vengeful murderer suffers anxieties, often a feeling of smallness and of rejection as a child, from being fatherless. He becomes resentful of people who have fathers and particularly vengeful against father figures.

As President, Mr. Kennedy could certainly represent such a figure of authority and he re-

sented as such, even though the murderer may have had other ostensible grievance—political or personal, Dr. Socarides said.

Jack Ruby does not emerge as clearly as Oswald does as a typical vengeful person, who is usually of a paranoid-schizophrenic type. Although he, too, according to his history, had suffered childhood deprivation, his attitude has been more baffling.

Explanations of Ruby's revenge have taken several turns, Dr. Socarides noted. First, he was reported to have been taking vengeance for the city of Dallas; then for the President's family; and then for Mrs. Kennedy. He demonstrates in his history that he wanted to be a "big man," apparently as compensation for his feelings of inadequacy, Dr. Socarides said.

Dr. Socarides' paper on "Vengeance: The Desire to Get Even" had been prepared for the mid-winter meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association before the President's assassination and did not refer to the specific events of recent week.

However, his paper led to much discussion of the subject at its presentation to the conference being held this weekend at the Commodore Hotel.

In his paper, Dr. Socarides described the classic manifestations of the vengeful person. He was described as bearing grudges, unforgiving, remorseless, ruthless, heartless, implacable and inflexible.

"He lives for revenge with single-mindedness of purpose. Whether he feels and acts from the conviction that he has engaged in 'just retribution' (to avenge a wrong) or 'malicious retaliation' (for revenge, a wrong), the clinical picture is identical," Dr. Socarides said.

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